

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action dated May 2, 2006.

### **Information Disclosure Statement**

As requested the Applicant has enclosed copies of all foreign and non-patent documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on October 14, 2004.

### **Claim Amendments**

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the sensing device of the shopping receptacle is adapted to sense first coded data on a product and item and sense second coded data on a user identity card. Claim 1 further specifies means for transferring user identity data, indicating data, weight data and receptacle identity data to computer system. Basis for these amendments can be found in claims 12-14 (now cancelled) and at page 126, lines 12-19 of the specification.

Corresponding amendments have been made to method claim 27.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112**

Claim 11 now specifies "a user", which addresses the antecedent problem identified by the Examiner. Claim 12 has been cancelled.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

It is submitted that neither Gugulski, nor any of the other cited documents, describes a shopping receptacle having all the features specified in claim 1. Furthermore, Gugulski, nor any of the other cited documents, describes a method having all the steps specified in claim 27. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to withdraw the rejections under 35 USC § 102.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

The Examiner alleges that the subject-matter of previous claims 11-14 is obvious in view of Gugulski, Collins, Ogasawara and/or Matsumori.

The Applicant disagrees for the following reasons. Ogasawara and Matsumori both describe a shopping receptacle having a conventional barcode scanner for scanning product items and a *separate* card slot for receiving a card belonging to the user (see Ogasawara: Figure 1, **60** and Matsumori Figure 4, **76**).

By contrast, the sensing device in the present invention is adapted to sense first coded data on product items and sense second coded data on a user identity card. Hence, the Applicant's shopping receptacle is much cheaper to manufacture and less complicated than Ogasawara or Matsumori's shopping receptacle, because it has less functional components and is more convenient to use. Neither Ogasawara or Matsumori suggests using its scanner to perform the dual function of scanning product items *and* scanning user identity cards to generate user identity data.

Hence, the present invention is not merely a collocation of components drawn from the prior art. Rather, it provides a simplified shopping receptacle having fewer components and more facile

user interactivity compared to those described in the prior art. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present invention is not obvious in view of any of the cited documents.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

Applicant:



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KIA SILVERBROOK

Applicant:



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PAUL LAPSTUN

C/o: Silverbrook Research Pty Ltd  
393 Darling Street  
Balmain NSW 2041, Australia

Email: [kia.silverbrook@silverbrookresearch.com](mailto:kia.silverbrook@silverbrookresearch.com)

Telephone: +612 9818 6633

Facsimile: +61 2 9555 7762